

General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2010

LCO No. 4726

SB0043804726SD0

Offered by:

SEN. GAFFEY, 13th Dist.

REP. FLEISCHMANN, 18th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. **438**

File No. 593

Cal. No. 422

"AN ACT CONCERNING CHARTER SCHOOLS."

Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the following in lieu thereof:

"Section 1. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2010) (a) The Department of 3 Education shall review and approve proposals for alternate route to 4 5 certification programs for school administrators. In order to be 6 approved, a proposal shall provide that the alternative route to 7 certification program (1) be provided by a public or independent 8 institution of higher education, a local or regional board of education, 9 a regional educational service center or a private, nonprofit teacher or 10 administrator training organization approved by the State Board of 11 Education; (2) accept only those participants who (A) hold a bachelor's 12 degree from an institution of higher education accredited by the Board 13 of Governors of Higher Education or regionally accredited, (B) have at 14 least forty school months teaching experience, of which at least ten 15 school months are in a position requiring certification at a public

school, in this state or another state, and (C) are recommended by the immediate supervisor or district administrator of such person on the basis of such person's performance; (3) require each participant to (A) complete a one-year residency that requires such person to serve (i) in a position requiring an intermediate administrator or supervisor endorsement, and (ii) in a full-time position for ten school months at a local or regional board of education in the state under the supervision of (I) a certified administrator, and (II) a supervisor from an institution or organization described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, or (B) have ten school months experience in a full-time position as an administrator in a public or nonpublic school in another state that is approved by the appropriate state board of education in such other state; and (4) meet such other criteria as the departments require.

- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of section 10-145b of the general statutes, on and after July 1, 2010, the State Board of Education, upon receipt of a proper application, shall issue an initial educator certificate in the certification endorsement area of administration and supervision, which shall be valid for three years, to any person who (1) successfully completed the alternate route to certification program for administrators and superintendents pursuant to this section, and (2) meets the requirements established in subsection (b) of section 10-145f of the general statutes.
- (c) Notwithstanding any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to section 10-145b of the general statutes, any person who successfully completed the alternate route to certification program for administrators pursuant to this section and was issued an initial educator certificate in the endorsement area of administration and supervision shall obtain a master's degree not later than five years after such person was issued such initial educator certificate. If such person does not obtain a master's degree in such time period, such person shall not be eligible for a professional educator certificate.
- 47 Sec. 2. Section 10-157 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

(a) Any local or regional board of education shall provide for the supervision of the schools under its control by a superintendent who shall serve as the chief executive officer of the board. The superintendent shall have executive authority over the school system and the responsibility for its supervision. Employment of a superintendent shall be by election of the board of education. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, no person shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the superintendent until the board receives written confirmation from the Commissioner of Education that the person to be employed is properly certified or has had such certification waived by the commissioner pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. The commissioner shall inform any such board, in writing, of the proper certification, waiver of certification or lack of certification or waiver of any such person not later than fourteen days after the name of such person is submitted to the commissioner pursuant to section 10-226. A majority vote of all members of the board shall be necessary to an election, and the board shall fix the salary of the superintendent and the term of office, which shall not exceed three years. Upon election and notification of employment or reemployment, the superintendent may request and the board shall provide a written contract of employment which includes, but not be limited to, the salary, employment benefits and term of office of such superintendent. Such superintendent shall, at least three weeks before the annual town or regional school district meeting, submit to the board a full written report of the proceedings of such board and of the condition of the several schools during the school year preceding, with plans and suggestions for their improvement. The board of education shall evaluate the performance of the superintendent annually in accordance with guidelines and criteria mutually determined and agreed to by such board and such superintendent.

(b) A local or regional board of education may appoint as acting superintendent a person who is or is not properly certified for a specified period of time, not to exceed ninety days, with the approval of the Commissioner of Education. Such acting superintendent shall

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assume all duties of the superintendent for the time specified, provided such period of time may be extended with the approval of the commissioner, which he shall grant for good cause shown.

- 86 (c) The commissioner may, upon request of an employing local or 87 regional board of education, grant a waiver of certification to a person (1) who has successfully completed at least three years of experience as 88 89 a certified administrator with a superintendent certificate issued by 90 another state in a public school in another state during the ten-year 91 period prior to the date of application, or (2) who the commissioner 92 deems to be exceptionally qualified for the position of superintendent. 93 In order for the commissioner to find a person exceptionally qualified, 94 such person shall (1) be an acting superintendent pursuant to 95 subsection (b) of this section, (2) have worked as a superintendent in 96 another state for no fewer than fifteen years, and (3) be certified or 97 have been certified as a superintendent by such other state.
- 98 Sec. 3. Section 10-10a of the 2010 supplement to the general statutes 99 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July* 100 1, 2010):
 - (a) As used in this section:
- 102 (1) "Teacher" means any certified professional employee below the 103 rank of superintendent employed by a board of education for at least 104 ninety days in a position requiring a certificate issued by the State 105 Board of Education;
- (2) "Teacher preparation program" means a program designed to qualify an individual for professional certification as an educator provided by institutions of higher education or other providers approved by the Department of Education, including, but not limited to, an alternate route to certification program.
- [(a)] (b) The Department of Education shall develop and implement a state-wide public school information system. The system shall be designed for the purpose of establishing a standardized electronic data

collection and reporting protocol that will facilitate compliance with 114 115 state and federal reporting requirements, improve school-to-school 116 and district-to-district information exchanges, and maintain the 117 confidentiality of individual student and staff data. The initial design 118 shall focus on student information, provided the system shall be 119 created to allow for future compatibility with financial, facility and staff data. The system shall provide for the tracking of the performance 120 121 of individual students on each of the state-wide mastery examinations 122 under section 10-14n in order to allow the department to compare the 123 progress of the same cohort of students who take each examination 124 and to better analyze school performance. The department shall assign 125 a unique student identifier to each student prior to tracking the 126 performance of a student in the public school information system.

- (c) On or before July 1, 2013, the department shall expand the state wide public school information system as follows:
- 129 (1) Track and report data relating to student, teacher and school and 130 district performance growth and make such information available to 131 local and regional boards of education for use in evaluating 132 educational performance and growth of teachers and students enrolled 133 in public schools in the state. Such information shall be collected or 134 calculated based on information received from local and regional boards of education and other relevant sources. Such information shall 135 136 include, but not be limited to:
 - (A) In addition to performance on state-wide mastery examinations pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, data relating to students shall include, but not be limited to, (i) the level of education achieved by the parents of a student, (ii) the primary language spoken at the home of a student, (iii) student transcripts, (iv) student attendance and student mobility, and (v) reliable, valid assessments of a student's readiness to enter public school at the kindergarten level;
- 144 <u>(B) Data relating to teachers shall include, but not be limited to, (i)</u>
 145 <u>teacher credentials, such as master's degrees, teacher preparation</u>

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146 programs completed and certification levels and endorsement areas, 147 (ii) teacher assessments, such as whether a teacher is deemed highly qualified pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, or 148 deemed to meet such other designations as may be established by 149 150 federal law or regulations for the purposes of tracking the equitable 151 distribution of instructional staff, (iii) the presence of substitute 152 teachers in a teacher's classroom, (iv) class size, (v) numbers relating to absenteeism in a teacher's classroom, and (vi) the presence of a 153

- 154 <u>teacher's aide. The department shall assign a unique teacher identifier</u>
- 155 to each teacher prior to collecting such data in the public school
- 156 <u>information system;</u>

such as access to computers.

- (C) Data relating to schools and districts shall include, but not be limited to, (i) school population, (ii) annual student graduation rates, (iii) annual teacher retention rates, (iv) school disciplinary records, such as data relating to suspensions, expulsions and other disciplinary actions, (v) the percentage of students whose primary language is not English, (vi) the number of and professional credentials of support personnel, and (vii) information relating to instructional technology,
- (2) Collect data relating to student enrollment in and graduation
 from institutions of higher education for any student who had been
 assigned a unique student identifier pursuant to subsection (b) of this
 section, provided such data is available.
- 169 (3) Develop means for access to and data sharing with the data 170 systems of public institutions of higher education in the state.
- (d) On or before July 1, 2011, and each year thereafter until July 1, 2013, the Commissioner of Education shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education on the progress of the department's efforts to expand the state-wide public school information system pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. The report shall include a full statement of those data elements

that are currently included in the system and those data elements that
 will be added on or before July 1, 2013.

[(b)] (e) The system database of student information shall not be considered a public record for the purposes of section 1-210. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the ability of a full-time permanent employee of a nonprofit organization that is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, and that is organized and operated for educational purposes, to obtain information in accordance with the provisions of subsection [(e)] (h) of this section.

[(c)] (f) All school districts shall participate in the system, and report all necessary information required by this section, provided the department provides for technical assistance and training of school staff in the use of the system.

[(d)] (g) Local and regional boards of education and preschool programs which receive state or federal funding shall participate, in a manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, in the statewide public school information system described in subsection [(a)] (b) of this section. Participation for purposes of this subsection shall include, but not be limited to, reporting on (1) student experiences in preschool by program type and by numbers of months in each such program, and (2) the readiness of students entering kindergarten and student progress in kindergarten. Such reporting shall be done by October 1, 2007, and annually thereafter.

[(e)] (h) On and after August 1, 2009, upon receipt of a written request to access data maintained under this section by a full-time permanent employee of a nonprofit organization that is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, and that is organized and operated for educational purposes, the Department of Education shall

210 provide such data to such requesting party not later than sixty days 211 after such request, provided such requesting party shall be responsible 212 for the reasonable cost of such request. The Department of Information 213 Technology shall monitor the calculation of such fees charged for 214 access to or copies of such records to ensure that such fees are 215 reasonable and consistent with those charged by other state agencies. 216 The Department of Education shall respond to written requests under 217 this section in the order in which they are received.

- Sec. 4. Section 10-151b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):
 - (a) The superintendent of each local or regional board of education shall continuously evaluate or cause to be evaluated each teacher, in accordance with guidelines established by the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, for the development of evaluation programs and such other guidelines as may be established by mutual agreement between the local or regional board of education and the teachers' representative chosen pursuant to section 10-153b, continuously evaluate or cause to be evaluated each teacher. An evaluation pursuant to this subsection shall include, but need not be limited to, strengths, areas needing improvement, [and] strategies for improvement and multiple indicators of student academic growth. Claims of failure to follow the established procedures of such evaluation programs shall be subject to the grievance procedure in collective bargaining agreements negotiated subsequent to July 1, 2004. The superintendent shall report the status of teacher evaluations to the local or regional board of education on or before June first of each year. For purposes of this section, the term "teacher" shall include each professional employee of a board of education, below the rank of superintendent, who holds a certificate or permit issued by the State Board of Education.
 - (b) Each local and regional board of education shall develop and implement teacher evaluation programs consistent with guidelines established by the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (c)

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of this section, and consistent with the plan developed in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of section 10-220a.

- 245 (c) On or before July 1, 2013, the State Board of Education shall 246 adopt, in consultation with the Performance Evaluation Advisory 247 Council established pursuant to section 5 of this act, guidelines for a 248 model teacher evaluation program. Such guidelines shall provide 249 guidance on the use of multiple indicators of student academic growth 250 in teacher evaluations. Such guidelines shall include, but not be limited to: (1) Methods for assessing student academic growth; (2) a 251 consideration of control factors tracked by the state-wide public school 252 253 information system, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-10a, as 254 amended by this act, that may influence teacher performance ratings, 255 including, but not limited to, student characteristics, student 256 attendance and student mobility; and (3) minimum requirements for 257 teacher evaluation instruments and procedures.
- 258 Sec. 5. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2010) (a) There is established a 259 Performance Evaluation Advisory Council within the Department of 260 Education. Membership of the council shall consist of: (1) The 261 Commissioners of Education and Higher Education, or their designees, 262 (2) one representative from each of the following associations, 263 designated by the association, the Connecticut Association of Boards of 264 Education, the Connecticut Association of Public School 265 Superintendents, Connecticut Federation of School Administrators, the 266 Connecticut Education Association and the American Federation of 267 Teachers-Connecticut, and (3) persons selected by the Commissioner 268 of Education who shall include, but not be limited to, teachers, persons 269 with expertise in performance evaluation processes and systems, and 270 any other person the commissioner deems appropriate.
 - (b) The council shall be responsible for (1) assisting the State Board of Education in the development and implementation of the teacher evaluation guidelines, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-151b of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and (2) the data collection and evaluation support system, pursuant to subsection (c) of section

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10-10a of the general statutes, as amended by this act. The council shallmeet at least quarterly.

Sec. 6. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2010) (a) A local or regional board of education for a school district identified as a priority school district, pursuant to section 10-266p of the general statutes, may, through agreement with the organizations designated or elected as the exclusive representatives of the teachers' and administrators' units, as defined in section 10-153b of the general statutes, convert an existing public school into an innovation school or establish a new school as an innovation school, in accordance with the provisions of this section, for purposes of improving school performance and student achievement. For purposes of this section, an innovation school is a school in which: (1) Faculty and district leadership are responsible for developing an innovation plan, as described in subsection (b) of this section, under which the school operates and the administrators of the school are responsible for meeting the terms of the innovation plan; or (2) an external partner is responsible for developing the innovation plan, as described in subsection (b) of this section, under which the school operates and the external partner is responsible for meeting the terms of the innovation plan. For purposes of this section, an external partner may include a public or private institution of higher education, nonprofit charter school operators, educational collaboratives or a consortia authorized by the Commissioner of Education that may include public or private institutions of higher education, parents, the organizations designated or elected as the exclusive representatives of the teachers' and administrators' units, as defined in said section 10-153b, superintendents or boards of education. The local or regional board of education shall decide whether the faculty and district leadership or an external partner is responsible for developing the innovation plan.

(b) (1) An innovation school established under this section shall operate according to an innovation plan. Such plan shall articulate the areas of autonomy and flexibility in curriculum, budget, school schedule and calendar, school district policies and procedures,

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professional development, and staffing policies and procedures, including waivers from or modifications to contracts or collective bargaining agreements. Such innovation plan shall be developed by the faculty and district leadership or an external partner by means of an innovation plan committee. Membership of the innovation plan committee developed by (A) faculty and district leadership shall consist of at least nine members, but not more than eleven members, (i) five of whom shall be selected by the local or regional board of education and shall include (I) the superintendent of schools for the school district, or his or her designee; (II) a member of the local or regional board of education, or his or her designee; (III) two parents who have one or more children enrolled in the school, or in the case of a new school, parents from the district; and (IV) the principal of the school, or, in the case of a new school and where a principal has not yet been hired, a principal from the school district in which the new school is located, (ii) two of whom shall be certified teachers of the school appointed by the exclusive bargaining representative of the teachers' unit chosen pursuant to section 10-153b of the general statutes, or, in the case of a new school and where no certified teachers have yet been hired, two certified teachers appointed by the exclusive bargaining representative of the teachers' unit chosen pursuant to section 10-153b of the general statutes, and (iii) not more than four of whom the local or regional board of education deems appropriate; (B) an external partner shall consist of at least nine members, but not more than eleven members, (i) seven of whom shall be selected by the local or regional board of education and shall include (I) the superintendent of schools for the school district, or his or her designee; (II) a member of the local or regional board of education, or his or her designee; (III) two parents who have one or more children enrolled in the school, or, in the case of a new school, parents from the district; (IV) the principal of the school, or, in the case of a new school and where a principal has not yet been hired, a principal from the school district in which the new school is located; and (V) two of whom shall represent the external partner, (ii) two of whom shall be certified teachers of the school appointed by the exclusive bargaining representative of the

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345 teachers' unit chosen pursuant to section 10-153b of the general 346 statutes, or, in the case of a new school and where no certified teachers 347 have yet been hired, two certified teachers appointed by the exclusive 348 bargaining representative of the teachers' unit chosen pursuant to 349 section 10-153b of the general statutes, and (iii) not more than two of 350 whom the local or regional board of education deems appropriate. A 351 majority vote of the innovation plan committee shall be required for 352 approval and implementation of the innovation plan.

(2) The innovation plan shall include, but not be limited to: (A) A curriculum plan that includes a detailed description of the curriculum and related programs for the proposed school and how the curriculum is expected to improve school performance and student achievement; (B) a budget plan, that includes a detailed description of how funds shall be used in the proposed school to support school performance and student achievement that is or may be different than how funds are used in other public schools in the district; (C) a school schedule plan that includes a detailed description of the ways the program or calendar of the proposed school may be enhanced or expanded; (D) a staffing plan, including any proposed waivers or modifications of collective bargaining agreements, subject to agreement with the exclusive bargaining representative for the certified employees employed at the school, chosen pursuant to section 10-153b of the general statutes, and in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section; (E) a policies and procedures plan that includes a detailed description of the unique operational policies and procedures to be used by the proposed school and how the procedures will support school performance and student achievement; and (F) a professional development plan that includes a detailed description of how the school may provide professional development to its administrators, teachers and other staff.

(3) In order to assess the proposed school across multiple measures of school performance and student success, the innovation plan shall include measurable annual goals, including, but not limited to, goals relating to the following: (A) Student attendance; (B) student safety

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and discipline; (C) student promotion and graduation and dropout rates; (D) student performance on the state-wide mastery examination, pursuant to section 10-14n of the general statutes; (E) progress in areas of academic underperformance; (F) progress among subgroups of students, including low-income students, limited English-proficient students and students receiving special education; and (G) reduction of achievement gaps among different groups of students.

- (c) Nothing in this section shall alter the collective bargaining agreements applicable to the administrators, teachers and staff in the school, subject to the provisions of sections 10-153a to 10-153n, inclusive, of the general statutes, and such collective bargaining agreements shall be considered to be in operation at an innovation school, except to the extent the provisions are waived or modified in the innovation plan and agreed to by a two-thirds vote of the members of the exclusive bargaining representative employed or to be employed at the innovation school.
- (d) Innovation schools authorized under this section shall be evaluated annually by the superintendent of schools for the school district. The superintendent shall submit the evaluation to the local or regional board of education and the Commissioner of Education. The evaluation shall determine whether the school has met the annual goals outlined in the innovation plan for the school and assess the implementation of the innovation plan at the school. The superintendent may amend or suspend one or more components of the innovation plan if the superintendent determines, after one year, an amendment is necessary because of subsequent changes in the school district that affect one or more components of such innovation plan. If the superintendent determines that the school has substantially failed to meet the goals outlined in the innovation plan, the local or regional board of education may: (A) Amend one or more components of the innovation plan; (B) suspend one or more components of the innovation plan; or (C) terminate the authorization of the school, provided the amending or suspension shall not take place before the completion of the second full year of the operation of the school and

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the termination shall not take place before the completion of the third full year of the operation of the school. Any amendment to or suspension of any component of the innovation plan that changes the contract of employment for any teacher employed at the school shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the members of the exclusive bargaining representative for the teachers employed at the school prior to any such amendment or suspension of the innovation plan.

- (e) The local or regional board of education shall allow a student who is enrolled in a school at the time it is established as an innovation school pursuant to this section to remain enrolled in the school if the student and the student's parents choose to have the student remain.
- Sec. 7. Section 10-223e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):
 - (a) In conformance with the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, the Commissioner of Education shall prepare a state-wide education accountability plan, consistent with federal law and regulation. Such plan shall identify the schools and districts in need of improvement, require the development and implementation of improvement plans and utilize rewards and consequences.
 - (b) Public schools identified by the State Board of Education pursuant to section 10-223b of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2001, as schools in need of improvement shall: (1) Continue to be identified as schools in need of improvement, and continue to operate under school improvement plans developed pursuant to said section 10-223b through June 30, 2004; (2) on or before February 1, 2003, be evaluated by the local board of education and determined to be making sufficient or insufficient progress; (3) if found to be making insufficient progress by a local board of education, be subject to a new remediation and organization plan developed by the local board of education; (4) continue to be eligible for available federal or state aid; (5) beginning in February, 2003, be monitored by the Department of Education for adequate yearly progress, as defined in

the state accountability plan prepared in accordance with subsection (a) of this section; and (6) be subject to rewards and consequences as defined in said plan.

- (c) (1) Any school or school district identified as in need of improvement pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and requiring corrective action pursuant to the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, shall be designated and listed as a low achieving school or school district and shall be subject to intensified supervision and direction by the State Board of Education.
- 454 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of this title or any regulation 455 adopted pursuant to said statutes, except as provided in subdivision 456 (3) of this subsection, in carrying out the provisions of subdivision (1) 457 of this subsection, the State Board of Education shall take any of the 458 following actions to improve student performance and remove the 459 school or district from the list of schools or districts designated and 460 listed as a low achieving school or district pursuant to said subdivision 461 (1), and to address other needs of the school or district: (A) Require an 462 operations audit to identify possible programmatic savings and an 463 instructional audit to identify any deficits in curriculum and 464 instruction or in the learning environment of the school or district; (B) 465 require the local or regional board of education for such school or 466 district to use state and federal funds for critical needs, as directed by 467 the State Board of Education; (C) provide incentives to attract highly 468 qualified teachers and principals; (D) direct the transfer and 469 assignment of teachers and principals; (E) require additional training 470 and technical assistance for parents and guardians of children 471 attending the school or a school in the district and for teachers, 472 principals, and central office staff members hired by the district; (F) 473 require the local or regional board of education for the school or 474 district to implement model curriculum, including, but not limited to, 475 recommended textbooks, materials and supplies approved by the 476 Department of Education; (G) identify schools for reconstitution, as 477 may be phased in by the commissioner, as state or local charter 478 schools, schools established pursuant to section 10-74g, innovation

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schools established pursuant to section 6 of this act, or schools based on other models for school improvement, or for management by an entity other than the local or regional board of education for the district in which the school is located; (H) direct the local or regional board of education for the school or district to develop and implement a plan addressing deficits in achievement and in the learning environment as recommended in the instructional audit; (I) assign a technical assistance team to the school or district to guide school or district initiatives and report progress to the Commissioner of Education; (J) establish instructional and learning environment benchmarks for the school or district to meet as it progresses toward removal from the list of low achieving schools or districts; (K) provide funding to any proximate district to a district designated as a low achieving school district so that students in a low achieving district may attend public school in a neighboring district; (L) direct the establishment of learning academies within schools that require continuous monitoring of student performance by teacher groups; (M) require local and regional boards of education to (i) undergo training to improve their operational efficiency and effectiveness as leaders of their districts' improvement plans, and (ii) submit an annual action plan to the Commissioner of Education outlining how, when and in what manner their effectiveness shall be monitored; or (N) any combination of the actions described in this subdivision or similar, closely related actions.

- (3) If a directive of the State Board of Education pursuant to subparagraph (C), (D), (E), (G) or (L) of subdivision (2) of this subsection or a directive to implement a plan pursuant to subparagraph (H) of said subdivision affects working conditions, such directive shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of sections 10-153a to 10-153n, inclusive.
- (4) The Comptroller shall, pursuant to the provisions of section 10-262i, withhold any grant funds that a town is otherwise required to appropriate to a local or regional board of education due to low academic achievement in the school district pursuant to section 10-

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262h. Said funds shall be transferred to the Department of Education and shall be expended by the department on behalf of the identified school district. Said funds shall be used to implement the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection and to offset such other local education costs that the Commissioner of Education deems appropriate to achieve school improvements. These funds shall be awarded by the commissioner to the local or regional board of education for such identified school district upon condition that said funds shall be spent in accordance with the directives of the commissioner.

- (d) The State Board of Education shall monitor the progress of each school or district designated as a low achieving school or district pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section and provide notice to the local or regional board of education for each such school or district of the school or district's progress toward meeting the benchmarks established by the State Board of Education pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. If a district fails to make acceptable progress toward meeting such benchmarks established by the State Board of Education and fails to make adequate yearly progress pursuant to the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, for two consecutive years while designated as a low achieving school district, the State Board of Education, after consultation with the Governor and chief elected official or officials of the district, may (1) request that the General Assembly enact legislation authorizing that control of the district be reassigned to the State Board of Education or other authorized entity, or (2) notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 146, any special act, charter or ordinance, grant the Commissioner of Education the authority to reconstitute the local or regional board of education for such school district in accordance with the provisions of subsection (g) of this section.
- (e) Any school district or elementary school after two successive years of failing to make adequate yearly progress shall be designated as a low achieving school district or school and shall be evaluated by the Commissioner of Education. After such evaluation, the

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commissioner may require that such school district or school provide full-day kindergarten classes, summer school, extended school day, weekend classes, tutorial assistance to its students or professional development to its administrators, principals, teachers paraprofessional teacher aides if (1) on any subpart of the third grade state-wide mastery examination, thirty per cent or more of the students in any subgroup, as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, do not achieve the level of proficiency or higher, or (2) the commissioner determines that it would be in the best educational interests of the school or the school district to have any of these programs. In ordering any educational program authorized by this subsection, the commissioner may limit the offering of the program to the subgroup of students that have failed to achieve proficiency as determined by this subsection, those in particular grades or those who are otherwise at substantial risk of educational failure. The costs of instituting the ordered educational programs shall be borne by the identified low achieving school district or the school district in which an identified low achieving school is located. The commissioner shall not order an educational program that costs more to implement than the total increase in the amount of the grant that a town receives pursuant to section 10-262i in any fiscal year above the prior fiscal year.

(f) The Commissioner of Education shall conduct a study, within the limits of the capacity of the Department of Education to perform such study, of academic achievement of individual students over time as measured by performance on the state-wide mastery examination in grades three to eight, inclusive. If this study evidences a pattern of continuous and substantial growth in educational performance on said examinations for individual students, then the commissioner may determine that the school district or elementary school shall not be subject to the requirements of subsection (e) of this section, but shall still comply with the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, if applicable.

(g) The State Board of Education may authorize the Commissioner

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581 of Education to reconstitute a local or regional board of education 582 pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section for a period of not more than five years. The board shall not grant such authority to 583 584 the commissioner unless the board has required the local or regional 585 board of education to complete the training described in subparagraph 586 (M) of subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section. Upon such 587 authorization by the board, the commissioner shall terminate the 588 existing local or regional board of education and appoint the members 589 of a new local or regional board of education for the school district. 590 Such appointed members may include members of the board of 591 education that was terminated. The terms of the members of the new 592 board of education shall be three years. The department of education shall offer training to the members of the new board of education. The 593 new board of education shall annually report to the commissioner 594 595 regarding the district's progress toward meeting the benchmarks 596 established by the State Board of Education pursuant to subsection (c) 597 of this section and making adequate yearly progress, as defined in the 598 state accountability plan prepared in accordance with subsection (a) of 599 this section. If the district fails to show adequate improvement, as 600 determined by the State Board of Education, after three years, the commissioner may reappoint the members of the new board of 601 602 education or appoint new members to such board of education for 603 terms of two years.

Sec. 8. Section 9-185 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

Unless otherwise provided by special act or charter, (1) assessors, (2) members of boards of assessment appeals, (3) selectmen, (4) town clerks, (5) town treasurers, (6) collectors of taxes, (7) constables, (8) registrars of voters, (9) subject to the provisions of subsection (g) of section 10-223e, as amended by this act, members of boards of education, and (10) library directors shall be elected, provided any town may, by ordinance, provide for the appointment, by its chief executive authority, of [(1)] (A) a constable or constables in lieu of constables to be elected under section 9-200 or [(2)] (B) a town clerk,

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town treasurer or collector of taxes in lieu of the election of such officers as provided in section 9-189. Unless otherwise provided by special act or charter, all other town officers shall be appointed as provided by law and, if no other provision for their appointment is made by law, then by [(A)] (i) the chief executive officer of such municipality, or [(B)] (ii) where the legislative body is a town meeting, by the board of selectmen, or [(C)] (iii) by such other appointing authority as a town may by ordinance provide, and except that, if a board of finance is established under the provisions of section 7-340, the members thereof shall be elected as provided in section 9-202 and except that assessors may be elected or appointed under the provisions of section 9-198. Any town may, by a vote of its legislative body, determine the number of its officers and prescribe the mode by which they shall be voted for at subsequent elections.

- Sec. 9. Section 10-183v of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a [former] teacher receiving retirement benefits from the system may not be employed in a teaching position receiving compensation paid out of public money appropriated for school purposes except that such [former] teacher may be employed [temporarily] in such a position and receive no more than forty-five per cent of the maximum salary level for the assigned position. Any [former] teacher who receives in excess of such amount shall reimburse the board for the amount of such excess. [Temporary employment means employment for less than a school year.] Notice of such employment shall be sent [semi-annually on January thirty-first and June thirtieth] to the board by the [employing officials] employer and by the retired teacher at the time of hire and at the end of each assignment.
 - (b) A [former] teacher receiving retirement benefits from the system may be reemployed <u>for up to one full school year</u> by a local board of education, the <u>State Board of Education</u> or by any constituent unit of the state system of higher education in a position (1) designated by the

648 Commissioner of Education as a subject shortage area, or (2) at a 649 school located in a school district identified as a priority school district, pursuant to section 10-266p, for the school year in which the [former] 650 651 teacher is being employed. Notice of such reemployment shall be sent 652 to the board by the employer and by the retired teacher at the time of 653 hire and at the end of the assignment. Such Jemployment may be for 654 up to one full school year but reemployment may [, with prior approval by the board, be extended for an additional school year, [. 655 656 Such] provided the local board of education (A) submits a written 657 request for approval [shall be made in writing] to the Teachers' 658 Retirement Board, [and certified by the local board of education] (B) 659 certifies that no qualified candidates are available prior to the 660 reemployment of such [former] teacher, and [shall include a statement 661 indicating (C) indicates the type of assignment to be performed, the 662 anticipated date of rehire and the expected duration of the assignment.

- (c) The employment of a [former] teacher under subsection (b) of this section shall not be considered as service qualifying for continuing contract status under section 10-151, as amended by this act, and the salary of such teacher shall be fixed at an amount at least equal to that paid other teachers in the same school system with similar training and experience for the same type of service. Upon approval by the board of such employment, such [former] teacher shall be eligible for the same health insurance benefits provided to active teachers employed by such school system. No benefits shall be paid under section 10-183t, while such [former] teacher is employed by such system.
- (d) No person shall be entitled to survivor's benefits under subsection (f) of section 10-183f as a result of reemployment under this section.
- (e) The same option plan of retirement benefits in effect prior to reemployment shall continue for a reemployed teacher during reemployment.

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(f) The provisions of this section in effect on June 30, 2003, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2003, shall be applicable to any person making contributions to the Teachers' Retirement System on June 30, 2003, in accordance with said provisions.

- Sec. 10. Subsection (a) of section 10-151 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July* 1, 2010):
- 687 (a) For the purposes of this section:

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- (1) The term "board of education" shall mean a local or regional board of education or the board of trustees of an incorporated or endowed high school or academy approved pursuant to section 10-34, which is located in this state;
- (2) The term "teacher" shall include each certified professional employee below the rank of superintendent employed by a board of education for at least ninety days in a position requiring a certificate issued by the State Board of Education;
- (3) The term "continuous employment" means that time during which the teacher is employed without any break in employment as a teacher for the same board of education;
- (4) The term "full-time employment" means a teacher's employment in a position at a salary rate of fifty per cent or more of the salary rate of such teacher in such position if such position were full-time;
 - (5) The term "part-time employment" means a teacher's employment in a position at a salary rate of less than fifty per cent of the salary rate of such teacher in such position, if such position were full-time;
- 705 (6) The term "tenure" means:
- 706 (A) The completion of thirty school months of full-time continuous 707 employment for the same board of education for teachers initially 708 hired prior to July 1, 1996; and forty such school months for teachers

initially hired on or after said date provided the superintendent offers the teacher a contract to return for the following school year. For purposes of calculating continuous employment towards tenure, the following shall apply: (i) For a teacher who has not attained tenure, two school months of part-time continuous employment by such teacher shall equal one school month of full-time continuous employment except, for a teacher employed in a part-time position at a salary rate of less than twenty-five per cent of the salary rate of a teacher in such position, if such position were full-time, three school months of part-time continuous employment shall equal one school month of full-time continuous employment; (ii) a teacher who has not attained tenure shall not count layoff time towards tenure, except that if such teacher is reemployed by the same board of education within five calendar years of the layoff, such teacher may count the previous continuous employment immediately prior to the layoff towards tenure; and (iii) a teacher who has not attained tenure shall not count authorized leave time towards tenure if such time exceeds ninety student school days in any one school year, provided only the student school days worked that year by such teacher shall count towards tenure and shall be computed on the basis of eighteen student school days or the greater fraction thereof equaling one school month.

- (B) For a teacher who has attained tenure prior to layoff, tenure shall resume if such teacher is reemployed by the same board of education within five calendar years of the layoff.
- (C) Except as provided in [subparagraph (B)] <u>subparagraphs (B)</u> and (D) of this subdivision, any teacher who has attained tenure with any one board of education and whose employment with such board ends for any reason and who is reemployed by such board or is subsequently employed by any other board, shall attain tenure after completion of twenty school months of continuous employment. The provisions of this subparagraph shall not apply if, (i) prior to completion of the twentieth school month following commencement of employment by such board, such teacher has been notified in writing that his or her contract will not be renewed for the following school

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year or (ii) for a period of five or more calendar years immediately prior to such subsequent employment, such teacher has not been

- 745 employed by any board of education.
- 746 (D) Any certified teacher or administrator employed by a local or 747 regional board of education for a school district identified as a priority
- 548 school district pursuant to section 10-266p may attain tenure after ten
- 749 months of employment in such priority school district, if such certified
- 750 <u>teacher or administrator previously attained tenure with another local</u>
- 751 <u>or regional board of education in this state or another state.</u>
- 752 (7) The term "school month" means any calendar month other than
- 753 July or August in which a teacher is employed as a teacher at least one-
- 754 half of the student school days.
- Sec. 11. Section 10-66p of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 756 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):
- Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 4-98, 4-212 to 4-219,
- 758 inclusive, 4a-51 and 4a-57, the Commissioner of Education may
- 759 allocate funds to allow regional educational service centers and state
- 760 <u>education organizations</u> to provide professional development services,
- 761 technical assistance and evaluation activities to local and regional
- boards of education, state charter schools, regional vocational-technical
- schools, school readiness providers and other educational entities, as determined by the commissioner. Regional educational service centers
- 765 and state education organizations shall expend such funds in
- 766 accordance with procedures and conditions prescribed by the
- 766 accordance with procedures and conditions prescribed by the
- 767 commissioner. <u>For purposes of this section, state education</u> 768 organizations may include, but not be limited to, organizations or
- organizations may include, but not be limited to, organizations or associations representing superintendents, boards of education and
- 770 elementary and secondary schools.
- 771 Sec. 12. Section 10-66aa of the general statutes is repealed and the
- following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):
- As used in sections 10-66aa to 10-66ff, inclusive, as amended by this

act, and sections 10-66hh to 10-66kk, inclusive, as amended by this act:

- 775 (1) "Charter school" means a public, nonsectarian school which is 776 (A) established under a charter granted pursuant to section 10-66bb, as 777 amended by this act, (B) organized as a nonprofit entity under state 778 law, (C) a public agency for purposes of the Freedom of Information 779 Act, as defined in section 1-200, and (D) operated independently of any 780 local or regional board of education in accordance with the terms of its 781 charter and the provisions of sections 10-66aa to 10-66ff, inclusive, as 782 amended by this act, provided no member or employee of a governing 783 council of a charter school shall have a personal or financial interest in 784 the assets, real or personal, of the school;
- (2) "Local charter school" means a public school or part of a public school that is converted into a charter school and is approved by the local or regional board of education of the school district in which it is located and by the State Board of Education pursuant to subsection (e) of section 10-66bb, as amended by this act; [and]
- 790 (3) "State charter school" means a new public school approved by 791 the State Board of Education pursuant to subsection (f) of section 10-792 66bb, as amended by this act;
- 793 (4) "Charter management organization" means any entity that a 794 charter school contracts with for educational design, implementation 795 or whole school management services; and
- 796 (5) "Whole school management services" means the financial, 797 business, operational and administrative functions for a school.
- Sec. 13. Section 10-66bb of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- (a) On and after July 1, 1997, the State Board of Education may grant
 [, within available appropriations,] charters for local and state charter
 schools in accordance with this section.
- 803 (b) Any person, association, corporation, organization or other

entity, public or independent institution of higher education, local or regional board of education or two or more boards of education cooperatively, or regional educational service center may apply to the Commissioner of Education, at such time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes, to establish a charter school, provided no nonpublic elementary or secondary school may be established as a charter school and no parent or group of parents providing home instruction may establish a charter school for such instruction.

(c) The State Board of Education shall review, annually, all applications and grant charters in accordance with subsection (f) of this section. (1) Except as provided for in subdivision (2) of this subsection, no state charter school shall enroll (A) (i) more than two hundred fifty students, or (ii) in the case of a kindergarten to grade eight, inclusive, school, more than three hundred students, or (B) twenty-five per cent of the enrollment of the school district in which the state charter school is to be located, whichever is less. (2) In the case of a state charter school found by the State Board of Education to have a demonstrated record of achievement, [such school] said board [may] shall, upon application by such school to [and approval by] said board, [enroll up to eighty-five students per grade, if within available appropriations waive the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection for such school. The State Board of Education shall give preference to applicants for charter schools that will serve students who reside in a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p or in a district in which seventy-five per cent or more of the enrolled students are members of racial or ethnic minorities and to applicants for state charter schools that will be located at a work-site or that are institutions of higher education. In determining whether to grant a charter, the State Board of Education shall consider the effect of the proposed charter school on the reduction of racial, ethnic and economic isolation in the region in which it is to be located, the regional distribution of charter schools in the state and the potential of over-concentration of charter schools within a school district or in contiguous school districts.

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(d) Applications pursuant to this section shall include a description of: (1) The mission, purpose and any specialized focus of the proposed charter school; (2) the interest in the community for the establishment of the charter school; (3) the school governance and procedures for the establishment of a governing council that (A) includes (i) teachers and parents and guardians of students enrolled in the school, and (ii) the chairperson of the local or regional board of education of the town in which the charter school is located and which has jurisdiction over a school that resembles the approximate grade configuration of the charter school, or the designee of such chairperson, provided such designee is a member of the board of education or the superintendent of schools for the school district, and (B) is responsible for the oversight of charter school operations, provided no member or employee of the governing council may have a personal or financial interest in the assets, real or personal, of the school; (4) the financial plan for operation of the school, provided no application fees or other fees for attendance, except as provided in this section, may be charged; (5) the educational program, instructional methodology and services to be offered to students; (6) the number and qualifications of teachers and administrators to be employed in the school; (7) the organization of the school in terms of the ages or grades to be taught and the total estimated enrollment of the school; (8) the student admission criteria and procedures to (A) ensure effective public information, (B) ensure open access on a space available basis, (C) promote a diverse student body, and (D) ensure that the school complies with the provisions of section 10-15c and that it does not discriminate on the basis of disability, athletic performance or proficiency in the English language, provided the school may limit enrollment to a particular grade level or specialized educational focus and, if there is not space available for all students seeking enrollment, the school may give preference to siblings but shall otherwise determine enrollment by a lottery; (9) a means to assess student performance that includes participation in state-wide mastery examinations pursuant to chapter 163c; (10) procedures for teacher evaluation and professional development for teachers and (11)the provision of school facilities, pupil administrators;

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transportation and student health and welfare services; (12) procedures to encourage involvement by parents and guardians of enrolled students in student learning, school activities and school decision-making; (13) document efforts to increase the racial and ethnic diversity of staff; and (14) a five-year plan to sustain the maintenance and operation of the school. Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of section 10-66dd, as amended by this act, an application may include, or a charter school may file, requests to waive provisions of the general statutes and regulations not required by sections 10-66aa to 10-66ff, inclusive, as amended by this act, and which are within the jurisdiction of the State Board of Education.

(e) An application for the establishment of a local charter school shall be submitted to the local or regional board of education of the school district in which the local charter school is to be located for approval pursuant to this subsection. The local or regional board of education shall: (1) Review the application; (2) hold a public hearing in the school district on such application; (3) survey teachers and parents in the school district to determine if there is sufficient interest in the establishment and operation of the local charter school; and (4) vote on a complete application not later than sixty days after the date of receipt of such application. Such board of education may approve the application by a majority vote of the members of the board present and voting at a regular or special meeting of the board called for such purpose. If the application is approved, the board shall forward the application to the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall vote on the application not later than seventy-five days after the date of receipt of such application. Subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, the State Board of Education may approve the application and grant the charter for the local charter school or reject such application by a majority vote of the members of the state board present and voting at a regular or special meeting of the state board called for such purpose. The State Board of Education may condition the opening of such school on the school's meeting certain conditions determined by the Commissioner of Education to be

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necessary and may authorize the commissioner to release the charter when the commissioner determines such conditions are met. The state board may grant the charter for the local charter school for a period of time of up to five years and may allow the applicant to delay its opening for a period of up to one school year in order for the applicant to fully prepare to provide appropriate instructional services.

(f) An application for the establishment of a state charter school shall be (1) submitted to the State Board of Education for approval in accordance with the provisions of this subsection, and (2) filed with the local or regional board of education in the school district in which the charter school is to be located. The state board shall: (A) Review such application; (B) hold a public hearing on such application in the school district in which such state charter school is to be located; (C) solicit and review comments on the application from the local or regional board of education for the school district in which such charter school is to be located and from the local or regional boards of education for school districts that are contiguous to the district in which such school is to be located; and (D) vote on a complete application not later than seventy-five days after the date of receipt of such application. The State Board of Education may approve an application and grant the charter for the state charter school by a majority vote of the members of the state board present and voting at a regular or special meeting of the state board called for such purpose. The State Board of Education may condition the opening of such school on the school's meeting certain conditions determined by the Commissioner of Education to be necessary and may authorize the commissioner to release the charter when the commissioner determines such conditions are met. Charters shall be granted for a period of time of up to five years and may allow the applicant to delay its opening for a period of up to one school year in order for the applicant to fully prepare to provide appropriate instructional services.

(g) Charters may be renewed, upon application, in accordance with the provisions of this section for the granting of such charters. Upon application for such renewal, the State Board of Education may

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commission an independent appraisal of the performance of the charter school that includes, but is not limited to, an evaluation of the school's compliance with the provisions of this section. The State Board of Education shall consider the results of any such appraisal in determining whether to renew such charter. The State Board of Education may deny an application for the renewal of a charter if (1) student progress has not been sufficiently demonstrated, as determined by the commissioner, (2) the governing council has not been sufficiently responsible for the operation of the school or has misused or spent public funds in a manner that is detrimental to the educational interests of the students attending the charter school, or (3) the school has not been in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. If the State Board of Education does not renew a charter, it shall notify the governing council of the charter school of the reasons for such nonrenewal.

(h) The Commissioner of Education may at any time place a charter school on probation if (1) the school has failed to (A) adequately demonstrate student progress, as determined by the commissioner, (B) comply with the terms of its charter or with applicable laws and regulations, (C) achieve measurable progress in reducing racial, ethnic and economic isolation, or (D) maintain its nonsectarian status, or (2) the governing council has demonstrated an inability to provide effective leadership to oversee the operation of the charter school or has not ensured that public funds are expended prudently or in a manner required by law. If a charter school is placed on probation, the commissioner shall provide written notice to the charter school of the reasons for such placement, not later than five days after the placement, and shall require the charter school to file with the Department of Education a corrective action plan acceptable to the commissioner not later than thirty-five days from the date of such placement. The charter school shall implement a corrective action plan accepted by the commissioner not later than thirty days after the date of such acceptance. The commissioner may impose any additional terms of probation on the school that the commissioner deems

necessary to protect the educational or financial interests of the state. The charter school shall comply with any such additional terms not later than thirty days after the date of their imposition. The commissioner shall determine the length of time of the probationary period, which may be up to one year, provided the commissioner may extend such period, for up to one additional year, if the commissioner deems it necessary. In the event that the charter school does not file or implement the corrective action plan within the required time period or does not comply with any additional terms within the required time period, the Commissioner of Education may withhold grant funds from the school until the plan is fully implemented or the school complies with the terms of probation, provided the commissioner may extend the time period for such implementation and compliance for good cause shown. Whenever a charter school is placed on probation, the commissioner shall notify the parents or guardians of students attending the school of the probationary status of the school and the reasons for such status. During the term of probation, the commissioner may require the school to file interim reports concerning any matter the commissioner deems relevant to the probationary status of the school, including financial reports or statements. No charter school on probation may increase its student enrollment or engage in the recruitment of new students without the consent of the commissioner.

(i) The State Board of Education may revoke a charter if a charter school has failed to: (1) Comply with the terms of probation, including the failure to file or implement a corrective action plan; (2) demonstrate satisfactory student progress, as determined by the commissioner; (3) comply with the terms of its charter or applicable laws and regulations; or (4) manage its public funds in a prudent or legal manner. Unless an emergency exists, prior to revoking a charter, the State Board of Education shall provide the governing council of the charter school with a written notice of the reasons for the revocation, including the identification of specific incidents of noncompliance with the law, regulation or charter or other matters warranting revocation

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1009 of the charter. It shall also provide the governing council with the 1010 opportunity to demonstrate compliance with all requirements for the 1011 retention of its charter by providing the State Board of Education or a 1012 subcommittee of the board, as determined by the State Board of 1013 Education, with a written or oral presentation. Such presentation shall 1014 include an opportunity for the governing council to present 1015 documentary and testimonial evidence to refute the facts cited by the 1016 State Board of Education for the proposed revocation or in justification 1017 of its activities. Such opportunity shall not constitute a contested case 1018 within the meaning of chapter 54. The State Board of Education shall 1019 determine, not later than thirty days after the date of an oral 1020 presentation or receipt of a written presentation, whether and when 1021 the charter shall be revoked and notify the governing council of the 1022 decision and the reasons therefor. A decision to revoke a charter shall 1023 not constitute a final decision for purposes of chapter 54. In the event 1024 an emergency exists in which the commissioner finds that there is 1025 imminent harm to the students attending a charter school, the State 1026 Board of Education may immediately revoke the charter of the school, 1027 provided the notice concerning the reasons for the revocation is sent to 1028 the governing council not later than ten days after the date of 1029 revocation and the governing council is provided an opportunity to 1030 make a presentation to the board not later than twenty days from the 1031 date of such notice.

- 1032 Sec. 14. Section 10-66dd of the general statutes is repealed and the 1033 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):
- 1034 (a) For purposes of this section, "school professional" means any 1035 school teacher, administrator or other personnel certified by the State 1036 Board of Education pursuant to section 10-145b.
- 1037 (b) (1) Subject to the provisions of this subsection and except as may 1038 be waived pursuant to subsection (d) of section 10-66bb, as amended 1039 by this act, charter schools shall be subject to all federal and state laws 1040 governing public schools.

(2) At least one-half of the persons providing instruction or pupil services in a charter school shall possess the proper certificate other than (A) a certificate issued pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 10-145b, or (B) a temporary certificate issued pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-145f on the day the school begins operation and the remaining persons shall possess a certificate issued pursuant to said subdivision (1) or such temporary certificate on such day.

- (3) The commissioner may not waive the provisions of chapters 163c and 169 and sections 10-15c, 10-153a to 10-153g, inclusive, 10-153i, 10-153j, 10-153m and 10-292.
- (4) The state charter school governing council shall act as a board of education for purposes of collective bargaining. The school professionals employed by a local charter school shall be members of the appropriate bargaining unit for the local or regional school district in which the local charter school is located and shall be subject to the same collective bargaining agreement as the school professionals employed by said district. A majority of those employed or to be employed in the local charter school and a majority of the members of the governing council of the local charter school may modify, in writing, such collective bargaining agreement, consistent with the terms and conditions of the approved charter, for purposes of employment in the charter school.
- (c) School professionals employed by a local or regional board of education shall be entitled to a two-year leave of absence, without compensation, in order to be employed in a charter school provided such leave shall be extended upon request for an additional two years. At any time during or upon the completion of such a leave of absence, a school professional may return to work in the school district in the position in which he was previously employed or a comparable position. Such leave of absence shall not be deemed to be an interruption of service for purposes of seniority and teachers' retirement, except that time may not be accrued for purposes of attaining tenure. A school professional who is not on such a leave of

absence and is employed for forty school months of full-time continuous employment by the charter school and is subsequently employed by a local or regional board of education shall attain tenure after the completion of twenty school months of full-time continuous employment by such board of education in accordance with section 10-151.

- (d) (1) An otherwise qualified school professional <u>hired by a charter school prior to July 1, 2010, and</u> employed in a charter school may participate in the state teacher retirement system under chapter 167a on the same basis as if such professional were employed by a local or regional board of education. The governing council of a charter school shall make the contributions, as defined in subdivision (7) of section 10-183b for such professional.
- (2) An otherwise qualified school professional hired by a charter school on or after July 1, 2010, and who has not previously been employed by a charter school in this state prior to July 1, 2010, shall participate in the state teacher retirement system under chapter 176a on the same basis as if such professional were employed by a local or regional board of education. The governing council of a charter school shall make the contributions, as defined in subdivision (7) of section 10-183b for such professional.
- Sec. 15. Section 10-66hh of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - (a) For the fiscal [years] <u>year</u> ending June 30, 2008, [and June 30, 2009] <u>and each fiscal year thereafter</u>, the Commissioner of Education shall establish, within available bond authorizations, a grant program to assist state charter schools in financing (1) school building projects, as defined in section 10-282, (2) general improvements to school buildings, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10-265h, and (3) repayment of debt incurred for school building projects. The governing authorities of such state charter schools may apply for such grants to the Department of Education at such time and in such

manner as the commissioner prescribes. The commissioner shall give preference to applications that provide for matching funds from nonstate sources.

- (b) All final calculations for grant awards pursuant to this section in an amount equal to or greater than two hundred fifty thousand dollars shall include a computation of the state grant amount amortized on a straight line basis over a ten-year period. Any state charter school which abandons, sells, leases, demolishes or otherwise redirects the use of a school building which benefited from such a grant award during such amortization period, including repayment of debt for the purchase, renovation or improvement of the building, shall refund to the state the unamortized balance of the state grant remaining as of the date that the abandonment, sale, lease, demolition or redirection occurred. The amortization period shall begin on the date the grant award is paid. A state charter school required to make a refund to the state pursuant to this subsection may request forgiveness of such refund if the building is redirected for public use.
- Sec. 16. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2010) On or before July 1, 2011, the State Board of Education shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to (1) prohibit a charter school and any affiliated charter management organization operating such charter school from sharing board members with other charter schools and such charter management organizations; (2) require the disclosure of sharing management personnel; (3) prohibit unsecured, noninterest bearing transfers of state and federal funds between charter schools and from charter schools to charter management organizations; (4) define allowable direct or indirect costs and the methodology to be used by charter management organizations to calculate per pupil service fees; and (5) permit charter management organizations to collect private donations for purposes of distributing to charter schools.
- Sec. 17. Section 10-221a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

(a) For classes graduating from 1988 to 2003, inclusive, no local or regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than four of which shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics, not fewer than three in social studies, not fewer than two in science, not fewer than one in the arts or vocational education and not fewer than one in physical education.

- (b) [Commencing with classes graduating in 2004, and for each graduating class thereafter] For classes graduating from 2004 to 2017, inclusive, no local or regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than four of which shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics, not fewer than three in social studies, including at least a one-half credit course on civics and American government, not fewer than two in science, not fewer than one in the arts or vocational education and not fewer than one in physical education.
- (c) Commencing with classes graduating in 2018, and for each graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily completed (1) a minimum of twenty-five credits, including not fewer than: (A) Nine credits in the humanities, including not fewer than (i) four credits in English, including composition; (ii) three credits in social studies, including at least one credit in American history and at least one-half credit in civics and American government; (iii) one credit in fine arts; and (iv) one credit in a humanities elective; (B) eight credits in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, including not fewer than (i) four credits in mathematics, including algebra I, geometry and algebra II or probability and statistics; (ii) three credits in science, including at least one credit in life science and at least one credit in physical science; and (iii) one credit in a science, technology, engineering and mathematics elective; (C) three and one-half credits in career and life

1173 skills, including not fewer than (i) one credit in physical education; (ii) 1174 one-half credit in health and safety education, as described in section 1175 10-16b; and (iii) two credits in career and life skills electives, such as 1176 career and technical education, English as a second language, 1177 community service, personal finance, public speaking and nutrition 1178 and physical activity; (D) two credits in world languages, subject to the 1179 provisions of subsection (g) of this section; and (E) a one credit senior 1180 demonstration project or its equivalent, as approved by the State Board 1181 of Education; and (2) end of the school year examinations for the 1182 following courses: (A) Algebra I, (B) geometry, (C) biology, (D) 1183 American history, and (E) grade ten English.

(d) Commencing with classes graduating in 2018, and for each graduating class thereafter, local and regional boards of education shall provide adequate student support and remedial services for students beginning in grade seven. Such student support and remedial services shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of the high school graduation requirements or end of the school year examinations described in subsection (c) of this section, if such student is unable to satisfactorily complete any of the required courses or exams. Such student support and remedial services shall include, but not be limited to, (1) allowing students to retake courses in summer school or through an on-line course; (2) allowing students to enroll in a class offered at a constituent unit of the state system of higher education, as defined in section 10a-1, pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (g) of this section; (3) allowing students who received a failing score, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, on an end of the school year exam to take an alternate form of the exam; and (4) allowing those students whose individualized education plans state that such students are eligible for an alternate assessment to demonstrate competency on any of the five core courses through success on such alternate assessment.

[(c)] (e) Any student who presents a certificate from a physician stating that, in the opinion of the physician, participation in physical education is medically contraindicated because of the physical

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condition of such student, shall be excused from the physical education requirement, provided the credit for physical education may be fulfilled by an elective.

[(d)] (f) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of the local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject matter of the specified course requirements. The local or regional board of education may permit a student to graduate during a period of expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when the planning and placement team for such student determines the requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section, a credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute class period for each school day of a school year except for a credit or part of a credit toward high school graduation earned (1) at an institution accredited by the Department of Higher Education or regionally accredited; or (2) through on-line coursework that is in accordance with a policy adopted pursuant to subsection (g) of this section.

[(e)] (g) Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, inclusive, shall satisfy this graduation requirement, except that a local or regional board of education may grant a student credit (1) toward meeting a specified course requirement upon the successful completion in grade seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of which corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in grades nine to twelve, inclusive; (2) toward meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of a world language course (A) in grade six, seven or eight, (B) through on-line coursework, or (C) offered privately through a nonprofit provider, provided such student achieves a passing grade on an examination prescribed, within available appropriations, by the Commissioner of Education and such credits do not exceed four; (3)

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toward meeting the high school graduation requirement upon achievement of a passing grade on a subject area proficiency examination identified and approved, within available appropriations, by the Commissioner of Education, regardless of the number of hours the student spent in a public school classroom learning such subject matter; [or] (4) toward meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of coursework at an institution accredited by the Department of Higher Education or regionally accredited. One three-credit semester course, or its equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-half credit for purposes of this section; (5) toward meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of on-line coursework, provided the local or regional board of education has adopted a policy in accordance with this subdivision for the granting of credit for on-line coursework. Such a policy shall ensure, at a minimum, that (A) the workload required by the on-line course is equivalent to that of a similar course taught in a traditional classroom setting, (B) the content is rigorous and aligned with curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of Education, where appropriate, (C) the course engages students and has interactive components, which may include, but are not limited to, required interactions between students and their teachers, participation in online demonstrations, discussion boards or virtual labs, (D) the program of instruction for such on-line coursework is planned, ongoing and systematic, and (E) the courses are (i) taught by teachers who are certified in the state or another state and have received training on teaching in an on-line environment, or (ii) offered by institutions of higher education that are accredited by the Department of Higher Education or regionally accredited; or (6) toward meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of the board examination series pursuant to section 18 of this act.

[(f)] (h) A local or regional board of education may offer one-half credit in community service which, if satisfactorily completed, shall qualify for high school graduation credit pursuant to this section,

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provided such community service is supervised by a certified school administrator or teacher and consists of not less than fifty hours of actual service that may be performed at times when school is not regularly in session and not less than ten hours of related classroom instruction. For purposes of this section, community service does not include partisan political activities. The State Board of Education shall assist local and regional boards of education in meeting the requirements of this section.

- [(g)] (i) A local or regional board of education may award a diploma to a veteran of World War II, pursuant to section 27-103, who left high school prior to graduation in order to serve in the armed forces of the United States and did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such service.
- (j) For the school year commencing July 1, 2012, and each school year thereafter, a local or regional board of education shall collect information for each student enrolled in a public school, beginning in grade six, that records students' career and academic choices in grades six to twelve, inclusive.
 - Sec. 18. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2010) (a) The Department of Education may establish a board examination series pilot program to allow local and regional boards of education to permit students in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, to substitute achievement of a passing score on a series of examinations approved by the State Board of Education for the high school graduation requirements pursuant to section 10-221a of the general statutes, as amended by this act. The State Board of Education shall issue a board examination certificate to any student who has successfully completed such program. Such board examination certificate shall be considered in the same manner as a high school diploma for purposes of determining eligibility of a student for enrollment at a public institution of higher education in this state.
 - (b) Notwithstanding the high school graduation requirements

pursuant to section 10-221a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, for the school year commencing July 1, 2011, and each school year thereafter, a local or regional board of education shall permit a student to graduate from high school upon the successful completion of the board examination series program described in subsection (a) of this section.

- Sec. 19. (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2013, to June 30, 2018, inclusive, the Department of Education shall, within available appropriations, provide grants to local and regional school districts to begin implementation of the provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of section 10-221a of the general statutes, as amended by this act.
 - (b) On or before November 1, 2012, and biennially thereafter, each local or regional board of education seeking grant assistance from the department pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall report to the department on the status of the school district's implementation of the provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of section 10-221a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and an explanation for the reasons why funds are necessary for the next biennium to implement the provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of said section 10-221a.
 - (c) On or before February 1, 2013, and biennially thereafter, the department shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education on the status of implementation of the provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of section 10-221a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, by local and regional boards of education in the state. Such report shall include, (1) an explanation of any existing state and federal funds available assist in such implementation, currently to recommendations regarding the appropriation of additional state funds to support local and regional boards of education in the implementation of subsections (c) and (d) of said section 10-221a, and (3) recommendations for any statutory changes that would facilitate

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implementation of subsections (c) and (d) of said section 10-221a by local and regional boards of education.

Sec. 20. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) On and after July 1, 2012, the Department of Education shall commence development or approval of the end of the school year examinations to be administered pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of section 10-221a of the general statutes, as amended by this act. Such examinations shall be developed or approved on or before July 1, 2014.

Sec. 21. Subsection (g) of section 10-233c of the 2010 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(g) On and after July 1, 2010, suspensions pursuant to this section shall be in-school suspensions, unless during the hearing held pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, (1) the administration determines that the pupil being suspended poses such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption of the educational process that the pupil shall be excluded from school during the period of suspension, or (2) the administration determines that an out-of-school suspension is appropriate for such pupil based on evidence of (A) previous disciplinary problems that have led to suspensions or expulsion of such pupil, and (B) efforts by the administration to address such disciplinary problems through means other than out-of-school suspension or expulsion, including positive behavioral support strategies. An in-school suspension may be served in the school that the pupil attends, or in any school building under the jurisdiction of the local or regional board of education, as determined by such board."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following			
sections:			
Section 1	July 1, 2010	New section	
Sec. 2	July 1, 2010	10-157	
Sec. 3	July 1, 2010	10-10a	
Sec. 4	July 1, 2010	10-151b	

Sec. 5	July 1, 2010	New section
Sec. 6	July 1, 2010	New section
Sec. 7	July 1, 2010	10-223e
Sec. 8	July 1, 2010	9-185
Sec. 9	from passage	10-183v
Sec. 10	July 1, 2010	10-151(a)
Sec. 11	July 1, 2010	10-66p
Sec. 12	July 1, 2010	10-66aa
Sec. 13	from passage	10-66bb
Sec. 14	July 1, 2010	10-66dd
Sec. 15	from passage	10-66hh
Sec. 16	July 1, 2010	New section
Sec. 17	July 1, 2010	10-221a
Sec. 18	July 1, 2010	New section
Sec. 19	July 1, 2010	New section
Sec. 20	July 1, 2010	New section
Sec. 21	from passage	10-233c(g)